Benefits of private sector telecom companies

†2149. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those private sector telecom companies for which a congenial atmosphere as created and benefits extended by the previous Government;

(b) the loss suffered by the country as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The telecommunication sector was opened for private sector participation in 1992 with Cellular Services in four metro towns. The National Telecom Policy-1994 further opened the service sector for Basic and Cellular Services in whole country for private participation. The policy review is a continuous process in this sector and accordingly New Telecom Policy was announced in 1999 and further addendum was issued in 2003. The policy is implemented by various services providers with a view to provide affordable communication facilities to the people.

The increase in the tele-density from 2.33 in 1999 to 11.32 in December, 2005 demonstrates the result of such policies.

Use of mobile switching centres by mobility service providers

2150. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority has kept limited mobility and cellular mobility as distinct entities;

(b) if so, whether it has specifically disallowed mobility service providers using mobile switching centres;

(c) if so, whether Reliance Infocom launched Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) with the capability of full mobility cellular service, even though it had not secured the license, after the year 2001;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (d) The Government as well as Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has always maintained that Limited Mobility [WLL(M)] and Cellular mobility are different. The TRAI is a recommendatory body and noted the clarifications provided by Department of Telecommunications for not restricting technology subject to other effective measures, if required.

(c) The following features provided by M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. in 2003, blurred the distinction between mobility of WLL (M) and Cellular Mobile Services;

(i) Over the air activation/authentication of the subscriber wireless access terminal outside one SDCA by pressing/punching certain keys/ numbers such "444N".

(ii) Use of the same subscriber wireless acess terminal in more than one SDCA.

(iii) Multiple registration or temporary subscriber facilities in more than one SDCA using the same subscriber terminal in wireless access systems.

(d) M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. was asked not to provide the above features.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Development of bamboo based plywood industries of NER

2151. SHRI VIJAY DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request for channelising funds through North East Council for promotion/development of bamboo